

paying taxes such as these in Fairfax County out of farm income alone."

I submit the average farmer in Maryland has a hard time paying his taxes out of farm income alone. If you allow his assessments to go up as the land speculator moves in and causes the price of land to go up, you are going to run him off the farm completely. This is an important issue to the farm counties of Maryland and I urge you to support not only this amendment but the one which will follow it and will try to gut the proposition also by changing the "shall" to "may" and to support the Committee's recommendation throughout.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Scanlan.

DELEGATE SCANLAN: I assure my friends from the rural area that I have no desire in eliminating the abuses which have grown up in connection with the purchase of agricultural property to throw the baby out with the bath water by denying the exemption entirely. So, we will give our friends from the rural areas and Mr. Case one last chance to show their good faith.

I ask Mr. Case whether on behalf of his Committee would either accept the following amendment or state to this Convention that the proposal as is now before the Committee of the Whole in 8.10-2 permits and intends the following.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Scanlan, Delegate Case does not now have the floor to yield it. When he does have the floor, I will permit you to ask him the question.

DELEGATE SCANLAN: Let me put it in the form of argument. I, for one, would recede from my support of the amendment my opposition to the majority's proposal if that proposal could either be read implicitly to include the following or expressly by way of amendment to include the following: At the end, to add: "Provided that classifications may be made which are based on the principal source of income or upon the principal occupation of the owner of agricultural property." Short of that, I suggest that their good faith is in question and not ours for the urban areas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Churchill Murray.

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, at least one thing has been overlooked that has not

been emphasized here. That is the plight of the farmer is due primarily to his low income in respect to his investment — his low income in respect to his expenses.

I do not know a harder problem to solve because of such complete justice in what each Delegate has said. I do know this: That if you want to keep the farmers on the farm, you have to find some solution for this. I do know that it would be most unfortunate if we have to return to the farms, to the farming neighborhoods, and say to them, we have provided that the legislature can give you relief, but we have taken out of the constitution the positive assurance that you have previously had.

I find it hard to speak upon this because there is so much injustice in the case of the speculators and it is so extremely hard to write anything that will protect the State against the speculators. But I think that we have got to find a solution to this better than that of taking out what the farmer has had and putting in a merely permissive proviso.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Bard.

DELEGATE BARD: Mr. Chairman, I do not know when I have given more thought to a proposal than this particular one. I have long been concerned about the plight of the farmer. Believe it or not, in early days, I spent most of my working years on the farm. But in thinking this whole thing over, I have also been concerned about the plight of the aged and the indigent in our urban centers, people who are holding on to their household by a sheer breadth of many considerations. I would wager if we added up those in the latter category who are aged and indigent, they would add up to those farmers who are meeting with this plight. It seems to me if we are going to have special legislation in one area within our constitution, we certainly ought to add it in this other area.

I believe there are ways to deal with the plight of the farmer. I for one believe that we ought to keep as many of the small farmers who are working hard to eke out a living where they are; bringing them into the city will certainly compound problems both of the city and of the farm. But I do not think this is the way out any more than that it is the way out for the aged and the indigent in the urban centers to write into the constitution a proposal of this kind.